(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Railway Protection Force Association and the Zonal Railway Protection Force Associations applied for grant of recognition to them under section 15(L) (6) of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 (as amended in 1985);

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether any discussion was held with the representatives of the Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The erstwhile All India Railway Protection Force Association, which has ceased to exist after coming into force of the RPF (Amendment) Act, 1985, has filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the RPF (Amendment) Act, 1985. The issues raised in *this Parliament Question* are related to the matter pending before the Supreme Court.

Workforce in RPF

864. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the sanctioned strength of the Railway Protection Force, in the block years of 1955-60, 1960-65, 1965-70, 1970-75; 1975-80; 1980-85; and

(b) what were the actual strength of the RPF in the same block years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The strength of the Railway Protection Force was as under:—

31-3-55	34,220
31-3-60	49,837
31-3-65	53,520
31-3-70	55,798
31-3-75	58,361
31-3-80	61,493
31-3-85	61,355

Railway line between Jeypore-Malkanagiri-Bargarh

865. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal from Orissa Government have been received for survey of new railway lines between Jeypore-Malkanagiri-Bargarh and Raipur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Govt's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of acute constraint of resources, demand for survey of new railway line between Jeypore and Malkanagiri could not be considered.

As regards Bargarh-Raipur, survey for augmentation of line capacity for Durg-Champa-Jharsuguda section has been approved.

Haldia Dock Complex

866. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state what are the schemes to be implemented for development of Haldia Dock Complex to improve its capacity and functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): The schemes included in the Seventh Five-Year Plan for the development of Haldia Dock Complex to improve its capacity and functioning are as follows:—

Modernisations:

1. Modification of Ore & Coal Handling Plants.